

EVEN GREATER PEACE TASK FOR CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL



SEE HIM THROUGH



**HELP US TO
HELP THE BOYS**
NATIONAL CATHOLIC WAR COUNCIL
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

United War Work Campaign - Week of November 11-1918

THE REV.
JOHN N. DEVALLES
KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
CHAPLAIN
(RIGHT) WEARING
THE WAR CROSS
HE WON FOR
BRAVERY UNDER
FIRE; CENTER
A K. of C.
SECRETARY and
LEFT THE CAPTAIN
OF THE COMPANY
TO WHICH THEY
ARE ATTACHED

KNIGHTS OF
COLUMBUS
SECRETARIES and
their MOTOR TRUCK
TRAIN BIVOUACED
for the NIGHT in
the STREETS of
A FRENCH
VILLAGE.

Meanwhile the Knights of Columbus
Are Cooperating in Every Enterprise
for the Welfare of Soldiers

Work for the Rehabilitation of Civilian to Be Begun as Soon as the Fighting Ceases

By ANTHONY BECK.

THIS is a war of cooperation—cooperation of nations, rulers, armies, navies, dollars, francs and, in these days of victory, cooperation in rehabilitation of civilization and reconstruction of devastated countries. To meet the gigantic task imposed upon it the Knights of Columbus, which is the field organization of the National Catholic War Council, has completed a programme for the period that will follow cessation of actual hostilities that is even more extensive than the work which for more than a year and a half has been conducted in the training camps and cantonments in this country, and straight up to the fighting lines in France and Italy, and wherever else American armies have gone or may yet go.

In exactly the same manner as there has been effected unity of military command among the armies that have been driving the Hun legions into defeat and disintegration, the Knights of Columbus, working with single determination as an American organization in its welfare task for the American fighting men, has effected the spirit of cooperation requested by the Government from the workers of the seven organizations whose effort it has been to build and maintain the morale of the conquering armies.

Less than two months after the Jewish Welfare Board had entered upon the task of extending its welfare endeavors into the military forces that organization had accepted the tender of the use of Knights of Columbus buildings, not alone for recreational purposes but for religious services as well, at Camp Upton, L. I.

The need for such services was instantly recognized by the Knights of Columbus because at that time the great Long Island cantonment was drawing its embryo fighters from New York city and nearby Long Island, where the Jewish population is many times heavier than in any other section of the New World.

"Knights of Cooperation."

That this offer was made in the true spirit of cooperation was demonstrated quickly, since within a few hours after it was made it had been accepted and the following day one of the big K. of C. huts had been turned over entirely to the Jewish Welfare Board and for that day it was used exclusively by the men of Jewish faith. The incident caused a reconstruction, among the Jewish Welfare Board workers, of the meaning of the letters K. of C. From then on the phrase "Knights of Cooperation" has been a frequently used term which perhaps more than anything else has proved that the Knights' slogan "Everybody Welcome" has been transmitted into accomplishment.

Cooperation by the Knights, however, did not stop in the Long Island cantonment. It was carried into the other cantonments in this country, and included every race that went into the camps. That is the reason that in the South, and in the West also, no secretaries have been utilized by the organization, and in these sections of the country also, where the negroes required such accommodation, huts have been set aside for their exclusive use.

Again, when the big allied drive turned the fortune of war and snatched victory out of the hands of the Germans when they thought they were on their way to Paris, motorization of its service at the front was just being completed by the Knights of Columbus. The installation of that service meant that thereafter the American fighting man would not be required to seek out a stationary supply depot well back of the firing line, which of course could not be pulled up and transported on the minute that region where the new allied line had been formed. It meant that Gen. Pershing, recognizing the efficiency of the

Welfare organizations' work, had decreed that thereafter the Knights' secretaries were to be attached to divisions, and were to move with the divisions of the American army wherever those divisions went.

Followed the Fighting Men.

So it came about that when the big drive at Chateau Thierry rolled up the German line and beat the Kaiser's forces decisively, the little trucks of the K. of C. struggled across shell holes and rutted roads and the secretaries distributed from the trucks cigarettes, chocolate and the steaming soups and other supplies which form but part of the bounty being provided to the American soldiers by the organization.

Cooperation, however, still was part of the Knights' programme, and the Salvation Army lassies who thrust hot doughnuts and pies of the variety that made the tired doughboy leap for joy were not by any means the last to acclaim the fact that their supplies had come forward to the fighting front on K. of C. trucks. And ever since then K. of C. trucks have been and still are at the disposal of the other organizations designated by the Government as part of its war machinery and at the disposal of the soldiers themselves.

It is not an uncommon sight to see a K. of C. truck lumbering into Paris on its return from the front loaded with doughnuts and even with American officers, who find that the quickest way to get back to civilization and recreation when the army authorities have given them leave. Louis Mar-

shall testified to the cooperation given to the Jewish Welfare Board by the K. of C. at the recent mass meeting in Madison Square Garden, and Chairman Mulligan of the K. of C. Commit-

tee on War Activities has declared that this cooperation is one of the abiding aims of all war work.

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operating in every undertaking that has the welfare of the soldiers as its basis, will do its part in the so-called Khaki University to be established in the field in France as soon as peace

is being discussed and the military armistice has gone into operation. In this effort the full strength of the Knights' organization is to be utilized, for the Khaki University is to be nothing more nor less than a gigantic school in the classes of which the men who have gone overseas will be trained anew in the pursuits of peace.

Khaki University Plans.

Under present arrangements every army building and recreation hut near or behind the lines abroad, in England as well as France, is to be converted into an educational institution. Youth who volunteered or otherwise got into the fighting units before their education had been completed in this country will have their interrupted studies continued under conditions exactly as efficient as those under which they were studying in this country. The K. of C. have done work of this sort successfully in this country, as witness their mathematical classes at Fort Hamilton.

Men and youths whisked out of their homes by the operation of the selective draft while fresh from foreign lands, they still were seeking to acquire the English language, and will be taught at the expense of the Government and the welfare organizations like the Knights of Columbus, the Y. M. C. A., the American Library Association and the others, and will be taught in a few months by organized, intelligent effort that which, in all probability, would require years to acquire had the war not intervened and given them the opportunity that now is to be theirs.

Similarly, under Government supervision, the military forces will receive from this country of those industries at home in which there is the greatest shortage of trained operatives. With this expert information as a basis, the Knights and other orga-

nizations will undertake to teach the soldiers who display an aptitude for any trade or calling everything that can be taught of that trade or calling.

The teaching forces will come from the armies now abroad and will be augmented by thousands of others now being recruited here. In mechanical and every line the army is full of competent instructors, for it is safe to say that there is not a single pursuit which has not sent many of its best men to the fighting front.

Thus cooperation among the welfare organizations now at work abroad will take care of the long periods of leisure that will come to the soldier immediately upon the cessation of hostilities. Whereas they might be resting, unoccupied except by a few routine duties, during the period of the peace negotiations, with the probability of an idle brain and idle hands breeding trouble, with the so-called Khaki University in operation the danger in this direction will be removed.

The Knights, as agents of the National Catholic War Council, are preparing for the part the organization will play in looking after the comfort and welfare of the men not only on their way back to their homes in this country but after they reach here, and also for the work the organization must do in the war stricken countries during the period of reconstruction.

With families separated and their members individually unable to find each other the single tasks of effecting these reunions will be a monumental one, and the relief work that must be done among the poor will provide another avenue wherein the Knights and the other welfare organizations will be called upon for even a greater amount of cooperation and at least equally large expenditures as those which have gone before.

ON SERVICE UP
AT FIRING LINE

"FROM my personal observation of the K. of C. work abroad and at home," says Raymond B. Fosdick, chairman of the War Department's Commission on Training Camp Activities, "I can most cordially endorse it. The work of the K. of C. is directly related to the winning of the war. It should be supported by all Americans—Protestants, Catholics, Jews—all. I have seen it in operation and I know that it is conducive to the best morale among our men."

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It means that the soldier is sure he's right.

It means he's satisfied.

It means he's physically fit and morally clean.

It means he's dead in earnest.

And it means he's ready to make any sacrifice to perpetuate his ideals.

American a Real Fighter.

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fluence of the organization in the camps adds much to their general tone. The Knights of Columbus is an organization with more than 400,000 members in the United States. It has measured up to the gigantic task it accepted when the United States entered the war and in attempting to keep pace in every way with the rapid growth of the American armies here and abroad.

Knights of Columbus secretaries are everywhere. They are in American training camps and cantonments; on shell torn fields in Flanders and Picardy; in base hospitals where American wounded are cared for; in Italy; at embarkation points; aboard transports; and at points of debarkation.

Clubhouses have been erected at points of embarkation in this country and debarkation points in France and seventy-five secretaries have been assigned to permanent duty aboard transports. One hundred secretaries have been ordered to Italy, where ten buildings are being erected.

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The sense that they were going into the biggest experience of their lives had taken hold of them. They were not depressed. They were exhilarated. They had forgotten their exhaustion. They refused to be downhearted or let any one else be. They liked everybody. They assured each other that Heinle had a sure cure for the headache.

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Testaments are often in evidence on the front. I venture to say that they will be found in the left hand pockets of 75 per cent. of O. D. shirts. I have seen men sitting beside the dusty road reading them, at the mouths of dugouts where there was time to dodge in at the scream of a shell, inside dugouts during the long, monotonous days, on ammunition trains and in all sorts of places. One fellow said: "I don't hurt a guy none to read it. I've read about ten chapters to-day."

One night "Shorty," who used to sell newspapers in the streets of Buffalo, had been discussing the prospects ahead of this company that was going into the line the next day. He had

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